



Public Health

December 15, 2014

Dear Durham County Health Care Providers:

We would like to briefly update you regarding Ebola virus disease (EVD) and the local guidance to a suspected case. EVD cases continue to increase in West Africa - primarily in Sierra Leone, but also involving Guinea, Liberia, and Mali - with a total of 17,908 cases and 6373 deaths. In the United States, we have had 4 cases of EVD, including 1 death. North Carolina has tested one individual suspected of having EVD who was hospitalized at Duke University Hospital in November, and found not to be infected. The Durham County Department of Public Health (DCoDPH) has been actively monitoring all travelers from the affected countries above for fever or symptoms for up to 21 days.

On November 21, 2014, the North Carolina Division of Public Health issued the EVD guidance below for non-hospital healthcare facilities. This guidance follows the acronym **SIC: Screen, Isolate and Call** for EVD screening and response. The entire document can be accessed at: <http://epi.publichealth.nc.gov/cd/ebola/NCEbolaGuidanceforNonHospitalSettings102314.pdf>

SCREEN for exposure and illness:

- Post signage for patients to encourage prompt notification of travel.
- Obtain a travel history from all patients.
- For patients with recent travel to countries designated by CDC as posing a risk of EVD exposure, assess for fever or other compatible symptoms.

ISOLATE any patient with recent travel to countries posing a risk of EVD exposure, and fever or compatible symptoms:

- Avoid direct patient contact unless needed to meet emergent clinical needs.
- Lead patient to a single patient room and then close the door.
- Implement additional infection prevention measures. If patient contact is required, all persons entering the patient's room should use the following personal protective equipment at a minimum: impermeable gown, surgical mask, face shield or goggles, double gloves

CALL public health

- Contact a communicable disease nurse at the Durham County Department of Public Health (DCoDPH) at (919) 560-7896 during regular business hours. After hours, on holidays, and weekends, contact DCoDPH on-call by calling 911. Alternatively, you can call the N.C. Communicable Disease Branch at (919) 733-3419 to determine the need for EVD evaluation and testing based on the risk assessment.
- Ensure that the Emergency Medical Services (EMS) and the receiving facility (i.e. Duke University Hospital) are notified prior to transport. Also contact the Duke Infection Preventionist on-call at (919) 684-8111 to inform him/her of the impending patient arrival.

Best regards,

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